Group on Population constituted in commission under the Chairmanship of Registrar General of India has estimated the country's population to cross 100 crores by 2000 A.D. This Committee has projected the population in 2016 A.D. at 126.4 crores.

(b) and (c) The programmes of Department of Family Welfare are aimed at controlling the population of the country at a level consistent with the requirement of national development. The use of contraceptives and terminal methods is being canvassed with the citizens in the reproductive age group for avoiding unwanted pregnancies and facilities for reproductive and child health through the State Health Systems are being provided for improving the reproductive and child health status of mothers/children which would keep the families small in the long run.

The Reproductive and Child Health Services are proposed to be substantially improved and strengthened during the 9th Plan and availability of contraceptives will be improved by strengthening arrangements for social marketing of contraceptives. Panchayat Raj institutions are proposed to be closely associated and particular attention for purpose of training and IEC is proposed to be given to weak districts.

**PHCs without Doctors in Karnataka**

229. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any Primary Health Centre (PHCs) in Karnataka which did not have doctors and other para medical staff as on 30th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to provide such staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the information available till December, 1996, but of total of 1459 Primary Health Centres functioning in Karnatka, 227 Primary Health Centres were functioning without doctors, 622 without Lab. Technicians and 406 without pharmacists.

(b) and (c) Inadequacy of medical and para-medical staff is the main reason for these vacancies. The State Government has taken the following steps to fulfil these vacancies:—

1. Making Rural Service compulsory for doctors for certain periods.
2. Appointment of contract doctors.
3. Special drive has been launched to recruit para-medical staff against existing vacancies.

**Regional Cancer Centres in Gujarat**

230. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs) presently functioning in Gujarat, giving details of each centre;

(b) the number of cancer patients handled by each centre during the last three years, centre-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the number of Regional Cancer Centres in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) At present only one Regional Cancer Centre is functioning in Gujarat *i.e.* Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute (GCIR) recongnised by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) Cases handled by Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute:—